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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Argentina, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay: revised draft resolution

Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America

A

Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/1 of 7 October 1987, 43/24 of 15 November 1988, 44/10 of 23 October 1989 and 45/15 of 20 November 1990, and in particular its resolutions 42/204 of 11 December 1987, 42/231 of 12 May 1988, 43/210 of 20 December 1988, 44/182 of 19 December 1989, 45/231 of 21 December 1990, 46/170 of 19 December 1991 and 48/199 of 21 December 1993,

Recalling also the importance of the steps taken by the Secretary-General for the establishment of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America 1/ in support of efforts to reach a political solution to the Central American crisis,

Recognizing the valuable and effective economic and financial contribution that the United Nations and various governmental and non-governmental mechanisms

1/ A/42/949, annex.

have made to complement the national efforts for the advancement of the pacification, democratization and development process in Central America,

Recognizing also the important work being done by the United Nations Development Programme in discharging the responsibilities entrusted to it for the coordination of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, in accordance with the decisions that the Central American Governments have taken on the subject, as well as by other specialized agencies of the United Nations system,

Taking note with satisfaction of the contribution of the Special Plan to the formulation and execution of priority programmes for development in the subregion, in the specific areas outlined in the report of the Secretary-General 2/ submitted pursuant to its resolution 48/199,

Taking into account the conclusion in May 1994 of the process established by the International Conference on Central American Refugees as well as the depletion of resources and the anticipated end of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America on 31 December 1994, in compliance with its resolution 45/231,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, 2/ which describes the activities conducted under the Special Plan, together with requirements in terms of the resources and financial assistance indispensable to the continued implementation of priority programmes and projects favouring the consolidation of the peace and development process in the subregion;

2. Expresses its thanks to the Secretary-General for his additional efforts in support of the pacification process in Central America;

3. Expresses its appreciation to all States, to the donor community in particular, to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations for the support and solidarity offered in the execution of programmes and projects carried out in the framework of the Special Plan and the International Conference on Central American Refugees;

4. Stresses the importance of maintaining international cooperation and economic, technical and financial assistance, both bilateral and multilateral, to supplement the national efforts to consolidate peace, democracy and sustainable development in order to avoid a reversal of the achievements and advances made in the process.

2/ A/49/397.

B

International assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America

The General Assembly,

Considering the relevant resolutions regarding the importance of international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance during the post-conflict period of transition to a consolidated peace,

Recalling the efforts and aspirations of the peoples and Governments of the isthmus to make Central America a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development,

Bearing in mind the final conclusion of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America and the International Conference on Central American Refugees, the implementation of which has furthered the development process in Central America and served as a useful mechanism for facilitating dialogue within the subregion and with the cooperating community,

Considering the Declaration of Commitments in favour of populations affected by uprootedness and by conflicts and extreme poverty in the framework of the consolidation of peace in Central America, adopted at the third international meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held in Mexico City in June 1994, which recognizes that there is a pending agenda and that it is necessary to shift the emphasis of emergency programmes and move into a stage focusing on strategies for sustainable human development in priority areas selected by the countries, with the aim of consolidating peace and eradicating social problems, in particular extreme poverty,

Recognizing that, notwithstanding the progress made, it is necessary to continue monitoring the situation in Central America until the underlying structural causes that gave rise to the deep crisis in which the region was plunged have been overcome, and to avoid setbacks in the process and consolidate a firm and lasting peace in Central America,

Recognizing also the importance and validity of the commitments assumed by the Central American Presidents since the Esquipulas II summit meeting held on 7 August 1987, 3/ in particular at the summit meeting held in Guácimo, Costa Rica, on 20 August 1994, the Central American Environment Summit for Sustainable Development, held in Managua on 12 and 13 October 1994 and the International Conference for Peace and Development, held in Tegucigalpa on 24 and 25 October 1994, at which the priorities of the subregion were set for establishing the framework for a new programme of international assistance and cooperation for Central America,

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3/ A/42/521-S/19085, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987, document S/19085.

Noting with satisfaction that, in his report on the special plan, 2/ the Secretary-General stated that continued efforts were needed to solve old structural problems which were a source of strain and were obstacles to a firm and lasting peace in the region,

Taking note of the efforts of the Central American Governments to seek solutions to social inequalities, extreme poverty and social exclusion and to promote new, broader forms of participation and opportunities for their nationals as part of the new strategy for sustainable human development; and of the internal material and financial limitations to the full and effective achievement of these objectives,

Taking into consideration the will of the Central American Presidents to adopt a national and regional strategy entitled "Alliance for Sustainable Development" as a comprehensive initiative in the political, moral, economic, social and ecological fields which includes a re-defining of the relations of Central America with the international community and is aimed at improving the well-being of the peoples of the subregion,

1. Emphasizes the compelling need to design a new programme for international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance for Central America geared to the new circumstances in the region and based on the priorities laid down in the Declaration of Commitments adopted by the Follow-up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees and in the new subregional strategy: "Alliance for Sustainable Development"; 4/

2. Supports the efforts of the Central American Governments in their commitments to the alleviation of extreme poverty and the fostering of sustainable human development, and urges them to intensify their efforts to implement appropriate policies and programmes, especially of a social and environmental character, in carrying out those commitments;

3. Stresses the importance of international economic, financial and technical cooperation in implementing the commitments of the new strategy for sustainable human development in Central America;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations system and the United Nations Development Programme to continue their efforts to mobilize resources in order to put into effect the new strategy for integral development in Central America contained in the Alliance for Sustainable Development and in the Declaration of Commitments, through arrangements that the Central American countries are to determine jointly with the cooperating community;

5. Urges all States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations to continue the necessary support for the implementation of the goals and objectives of the new strategy for integral development in Central America;

4/ A/49/580-S/1994/1217, annex.

6. Again stresses the urgent need for the international community to maintain its cooperation with the Central American countries and to provide them with the necessary financial resources, in a sustained manner and on soft terms, where appropriate, with a view to promoting effectively the economic growth and development of the region;

7. Supports the decision taken by the Central American Presidents at their fourteenth and fifteenth summit meetings with respect to the adoption of decentralization policies oriented to human development at the local level and linked where appropriate to macroeconomic policies, in response to the need to complete the transition from humanitarian assistance to development cooperation, and from emergency cooperation to the establishment and implementation of sustainable human development programmes;

8. Expresses the view that only by solving the political, economic, social and environmental problems that are the cause of tensions and conflicts in society will it be possible to avoid a reversal of the achievements and guarantee a firm and lasting peace in Central America;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session and decides to consider the question "International assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for Sustainable Development in Central America" at that session and subsequently on a biennial basis.